

Greater Vancouver Community Services Society

Environmental Strategy

Strategic Objectives

- Energy:** To minimize energy consumption and use clean, renewable energy where possible
- Air:** To reduce emissions that contribute to air pollution and climate change
- Waste:** To produce less waste and increase recycling, composting and reuse
- Water:** To conserve water and minimize the impact on local water resources
- Procurement:** To factor environmental considerations into all purchasing decisions

Performance Indicators

Energy:

1. Amount of electricity consumed (kWhrs and \$; overall and by site)
2. Amount of natural gas consumed (GJs and \$; overall and by site)
3. Amount of gas and propane used in vans (L and \$)
4. Mileage for business travel (Total km's travelled)
5. Percentage of employees with transit pass (% of regular staff)
6. Percentage of energy from clean, renewable sources (**Optional**)

Air:

1. Greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, vehicles, paper use and business travel (CO₂e)
2. Percentage of greenhouse gases offset by external offset programs (**Optional**)

Waste:

1. Amount of paper used (Sheets and \$)
2. Number of boxes of paper picked up for confidential shredding (# boxes)
3. Money received from recycling (\$)
4. Number of sites (homes/offices) with recycling and composting programs in place
5. Percentage of employees who get pay stubs online (% of staff)
6. Number of photocopies done (Sheets)

Water:

1. Number of homes monitoring water consumption (# homes)
2. Number of homes with water conservation programs in place (# homes)
3. Number of times laundry is done (Average per week)

Procurement:

1. Number of homes with responsible purchasing policy in place and being used (# homes)
2. All purchasing decisions > \$500 consider an environmentally-focused option (yes/no)
3. Percentage of recycled paper purchased (%)
4. Percentage of energy efficient computers purchased (%)

Action Steps

ACTIONS	EN	AIR	WA	WT	PR
Turn off computers and printers at end of the day	Green	Cyan			
Place stickers on computers to remind staff to turn off monitors and computers when not in use	Green	Cyan			
Turn off lights when not needed and at end of the day	Green	Cyan			
Place stickers on light switches to remind staff to turn off lights when not needed	Green	Cyan			
Educate staff on ways to reduce energy consumption (and share fuel and electricity data with employees to educate them on energy use)	Green	Cyan			
Give all employees an email account			Yellow		
Set printers and computers to default to double-sided printing			Yellow		
Use an email signature that reads "Please do not print this email" and append it to employee email signatures	Green	Cyan	Yellow		
Encourage staff to not print emails and only print files when absolutely necessary	Green	Cyan	Yellow		
Save documents on the computer rather than printing	Green	Cyan	Yellow		
Use reusable plates, utensils, mugs and containers (rather than disposable)			Yellow		
Install composting bins for homes and office			Yellow		
Develop water conservation policy				Blue	
Install low-flow toilets, showerheads and faucet aerators				Blue	
Only run the washer or dishwasher when there is a full load	Green	Cyan		Blue	
Amend procurement policies to include environmental factor as a purchasing criteria					Red
Purchase energy efficient appliances, office equipment and furnaces (as replaced)	Green	Cyan			Red
Where possible, purchase laptops rather than desktop computers, as laptops typically consume less energy (and promote sharing of laptops)	Green	Cyan			Red
Purchase clothes washers and dishwashers that use less water			Yellow		Red
Purchase hybrid or more fuel efficient vehicles (as replaced)	Green	Cyan			Red
Purchase locally grown food for homes (where possible)	Green	Cyan	Yellow	Blue	Red
Purchase recycled paper and paper products (envelopes, toilet paper, paper towels)			Yellow		Red

*EN = Energy AIR = Air WA = Waste WT = Water PR = Procurement